THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Inequality in wages could be due to differences in the nature of work and the hours of work performed by men and women. Government is however, taking various measures under the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 to provide for equal remuneration to men and women for the same work or work of similar nature without any discrimination. The Act is being enforced by the respective State Government in the State Sphere and the Central Government in the Central Sphere. Government of India is regularly monitoring the implementation of the Act at the State and the Central levels.

FAO Report regarding workers

2670. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Report that agriculture workers who did not own or rent the land on which they work or the tools and equipment they use are often earning wages well below those earned by industrial workers;

(b) whether it is a fact that major component of Indian Economy is "agriculture or agriculture related operations";

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken to ensure that agriculture workers are adequately paid for their labour; and

(d) whether any study has been made to find out specific reasons for agriculture workers generally living in dire conditions, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table on the House.

Productivity and competitiveness of work force in PSUs

2671. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any long-term plan to improve productivity and competitiveness of workforce in public sector manufacturing industries;